

REMARKS

This Amendment After Final is in response to the Office action mailed April 16, 2010. It is believed that no fees are necessary in connection with the present Amendment. However, in the event any fees are due, kindly charge the cost thereof to our Deposit Account No. 13-2855.

Status of the Claims

Claims 25 and 29 are pending in the application. Claim 25 is amended, as discussed in more detail below, and the amendments to claim 25 do not add any new matter. All other claims have been canceled.

Response to Claim Rejections

Claims 25 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Huss et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,520,696, in view of Takeuchi, U.S. Patent No. 6,923,660. In response, Applicants amend claim 25 to recite “and wherein one of said sides of said cassette other than said opposing sides includes an opening at which tape passes over a platen in the cassette, each guide member extending from an end of its respective side opposite said side including the opening.” This language is supported in the final sentence of the first full paragraph of page 12 of the description, as well as Figures 24 and 25 of the application, and does not add any new matter.

By way of this additional language, it is respectfully submitted that even if the Huss et al. reference were combined with, or modified according to, Takeuchi as proposed in the Office action, the result would not satisfy amended claim 25. The claim language is intended to specify that the guide members start from one extremity of the respective sides, at an end of that side opposite from the side of the cassette including the opening for the tape.

As to the Huss et al. reference, the structure of the reference understood to be relied upon in the Office action is a latching member 21, which is positioned approximately mid-way along each of two opposing sides of the cassette. This structure cannot properly be considered to extend from an end of a respective side, as recited in claim 25, as amended.

As to Takeuchi, to the extent this reference (which is directed to an electrical distribution box) can properly be considered as analogous, it is noted that the T-shaped guide members (such as portions 67 in Fig. 4) are positioned inwardly of the corners of the distribution box, and therefore do not extend “from an end of its respective side”. Furthermore, as there is no opening at which tape passes over a platen, the limitation concerning the relative location of such an end to a side of a cassette including an opening at which tape passes over a platen would not be satisfied even if the Huss et al. and Takeuchi references were combined as proposed.

Claims 25 and 29 were also rejected as being unpatentable over Huss et al. in view of Harase, U.S. Patent No. 5,155,663. As to the proposed combination or modification of Huss et al. in view of Harase, it is respectfully submitted that this proposed combination also fails to satisfy the language of claim 25, as amended. The Harase reference discloses an adapter 65 with a T-shaped guide portion 66 (see Figure 5). However, there is only one guide portion (i.e., there is no corresponding guide portion on the opposing side of the adapter). Moreover, Harase does not disclose an opening at which tape passes over a platen, as recited in Claim 25, as amended. As such, the combination of Huss and Harase would not satisfy the language of amended Claim 25 concerning the relative location of such an end to a side of a cassette including an opening at which tape passes over a platen.

It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not modify the latching member 21 of Huss et al. and position it at an end of the sides of the cassette. This is

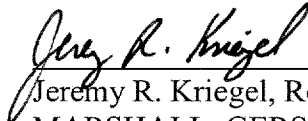
because the latching member is provided to fulfill a function of stably mounting the cassette within a printer. The cassette is balanced if the latching member is provided centrally on the side of the cassette. If such a latching member were positioned at an end of the side of the cassette, then it is likely the cassette would tilt when secured by the latching member within a printer, which is undesirable, as such tilting would adversely affect print alignment quality.

Conclusion

It is believed that claim 25, as amended, and claim 29 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner's reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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